

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

Claims 1-2. (Canceled).

3. (Previously Presented): A composition consisting of isolated pluripotent adult stem cells obtained from an exocrine glandular tissue of a salivary gland, a lacrimal gland, a sudoriferous gland, a sebaceous gland and/or gastrointestinal tissue, wherein the exocrine glandular tissue originates from a mammal.

4. (Canceled).

5. (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 3, wherein the exocrine glandular tissue is acinar tissue.

6. (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 5, wherein the acinar tissue is derived from the pancreas, the parotid gland or the mandibular gland.

7. (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 3, being capable of forming organoid bodies.

8. (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 3, being capable of differentiating into cell types of all three germ layers in a culture medium that does not contain any additional growth factors or differentiation factors after culturing under spatial conditions which ensure three-dimensional contact of the cells.

9. (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 3, wherein even after freezing/cryopreservation, the cells still retain an ability for self-renewal and unlimited division and do not differentiate.

10. (Currently Amended): A stem cell culture consisting ~~essentially~~ of the composition according to Claim 3 in a culture medium adapted to allow stable maintenance and proliferation of the cells essentially without differentiation.

11. (Previously Presented): The stem cell culture according to Claim 10, wherein the culture medium does not include any feeder cell layer.

12. (Previously Presented): The stem cell culture according to Claim 10, wherein the cells retain an ability for self-renewal and unlimited division for more than 25 passages.

13. (Previously Presented): The stem cell culture according to Claim 12, wherein the cells retain the ability for self-renewal and unlimited division for more than 50 passages.

14. (Previously Presented): A primary stem cell culture obtained from exocrine glandular tissue, wherein the exocrine glandular tissue is obtained from a salivary gland, a lacrimal gland, a sudoriferous gland and/or a sebaceous gland of a mammal and a majority of living cells present in the culture are undifferentiated pluripotent adult stem cells.

Claims 15-47. (Canceled).

48. (Previously Presented): A composition comprising isolated pluripotent adult stem cells obtained from an exocrine glandular tissue of a salivary gland, a lacrimal gland, a sudoriferous gland, and/or a sebaceous gland, wherein the exocrine glandular tissue originates from a mammal.

49. (Previously Presented): A stem cell culture comprising the composition according to

Claim 48 in a culture medium adapted to allow stable maintenance and proliferation of the cells essentially without differentiation.

50. (Previously Presented): A stem cell culture consisting essentially of the composition according to Claim 48 in a culture medium adapted to allow stable maintenance and proliferation of the cells essentially without differentiation.

51. (Previously Presented): A primary stem cell culture obtained from exocrine glandular tissue from a salivary gland, a lacrimal gland, a sudoriferous gland, a sebaceous gland and/or gastrointestinal tissue of a mammal, wherein living cells from the exocrine glandular tissue present in the culture consist essentially of undifferentiated pluripotent adult stem cells.

52. (Previously Presented): The primary stem cell culture according to Claim 51, wherein the living cells present in the culture consist of undifferentiated pluripotent adult stem cells.

53. (Previously Presented): The primary stem cell culture according to Claim 51, wherein the exocrine glandular tissue is acinar tissue.

54. (Previously Presented): The primary stem cell culture according to Claim 53, wherein the acinar tissue is derived from the pancreas, the parotid gland or the mandibular gland.

55. (Previously Presented): The primary stem cell culture according to Claim 51, adapted to allow stable maintenance and proliferation of the cells essentially without differentiation.

56. (Previously Presented): The primary stem cell culture according to Claim 51, wherein the mammal is a primate or a rodent.

57. (Previously Presented) The primary stem cell culture according to Claim 51, wherein the mammal is a human.

58. (Previously Presented): The primary stem cell culture according to Claim 51, wherein

the mammal is a rat.

59. (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 3, wherein the mammal is a primate or a rodent.

60. (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 3, wherein the mammal is a human.

61. (Previously Presented): The composition according to Claim 3, wherein the mammal is a rat.